

Supervisor Safety Brief

Find & Fix



In 2005, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported there were 4.2 million occupational injuries and illnesses among U.S. employees. Approximately 4.6 of every 100 employees experienced a job-related injury or illness. In 2006, 5,840 employees lost their lives on the job. Work injuries alone can cost the economy more than \$110 billion a year. Since most workplace injuries and illnesses are preventable, employee participation to find-and-fix workplace hazards is essential in helping job-related injuries and illnesses decrease.

Achieving an injury-free workplace requires continual attention to three key factors:

- Behavioral factors - Specifying the desirable performance
- Environmental factors - Observing the surrounding conditions
- Personal factors - Developing safety attitudes and beliefs

What is considered a hazard?

A hazard is any existing or potential condition in the workplace that by itself or by interacting with other variables can result in death, injury, property damage and other losses.

What are the different methods of mitigating hazards?

A hazard is controlled in one (or a combination) of the following ways:

1. **Elimination:** Removing the hazard from the workplace.
2. **Engineering Controls:** Making modifications to plants, equipment, ventilation systems and processes to reduce the source of exposure.
3. **Administrative Controls:** Controlling or altering the

way the work is done, including timing of work, policies and work practices such as standards and operating procedures which include training, housekeeping, equipment maintenance and personal hygiene practices.

4. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Reducing personal exposure to hazards, such as contact with chemicals or excessive noise, by wearing specific equipment.

What is the bridge between the hazard and the control?

Workers are the bridge! Employees can “monitor” their work areas by collecting information such as hazards and/or noncompliances and then take personal action to notify the appropriate people to correct the hazard, or, if safe and appropriate, correct the hazard immediately themselves.

Recognizing hazards involves education and practice. Keeping eyes open for potential hazards is the place to start. Look for vulnerabilities with PPE, obstructions, surfaces,

sign locations, storage, cords and plugs, parking and situational awareness. To test your skills in locating workplace hazards go to the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) home page, <http://vpp.inel.gov/>, and click on the find-and-fix link under the training tab.

Sources: <http://www.osha.gov/as/opa/osh-faq.html>, <http://www.behavior.org/safety/>, and <http://contentmgr.inel.gov/frnView.aspx?ID=154>